

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/963,776

Examiner

Matthew J. Sked

Applicant(s)

PACKINGHAM, KEVIN

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/02/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 18-23 have been cancelled.
2. Remaining claims 28-35 contain previously indicated subject matter and are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 28-35 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 28 teaches the combination of a voice browser system that interfaces between voice-tag applications and users, a method comprising: maintaining a navigation history that indicates a user's navigation through at least one voice-tag application in a voice browser system; automatically setting the user mode to whether the user is a expert-user or a standard user based on the navigation-history record, automatically setting the user-mode to an expert-user in the event that the user is globally designated as an expert user for all applications that the voice command platform executes and interfacing with the user according to the user-mode record.

Cohen (U.S. Pat. 6,560,576) teaches a voice browser system arranged to execute voice-tag applications and to interface between voice tag applications and users, a method comprising:

Art Unit: 2651

maintaining a navigation-history record that indicates a user's navigation history through at least one of the voice-tag applications via the voice browser system (maintains a history of dialog states, col. 3, lines 45-48);

automatically setting the use-mode record to indicate that the user is an expert-user of the at least one voice-tag application, based on the navigation-history record (the use of novice or expert prompts is based upon the history hence indicating the user-level, col. 5, lines 49-55); and

when executing the at least one voice-tag application, interfacing with the user according to the user-mode record (plays the expert help prompt to the user, Fig. 5, element 505).

None of the prior art on record teaches automatically settling the use-mode to indicate that, for all applications, the user is an expert-user in the event that the user is globally designated as an expert user for all applications that the voice command platform executes. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Cohen to arrive at the Applicant's invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2651

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pickering (U.S. Pat. 6,944,592) teaches an interactive voice system that determines the expert level of the user.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Sked whose telephone number is (571) 272-7627. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MS
02/14/06


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600